DAREDEVIL • LUKE CAGE • JESSICA JONES • IRON FIST

MARVEL

THE DEFENDERS™ #1

BENDIS • MARQUEZ • PONSOR

NEW YORK.
SO I TOLD HIM, I'LL SELL YOU, THE ENTIRE SHIPMENT BUT I WANT THE BOAT.
WELL, LET ME ASK YOU THIS...
CAN I MEET HIM?
GODDARD.
CAN I HELP YOU?
WE NEED TO TALK.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW YOU AND I AM WITH A CLIENT, SO...
CALL DURING OFFICE HOURS, YEAH?
IS THIS YOURS?

HEY, SERIOUSLY, WHATEVER THIS IS, WHOEVER YOU ARE, NOT NOW.
YOU SELL THIS ON THE STREET AND TELL PEOPLE IT'S I.G.H.?
WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS LAUNDRY DETERGENT.
DETERGENT?
DOES IT GET YOU HIGH AND CLEAN YOUR CLOTHES?
SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY GOOD DEAL.
YOU'RE SELLING POISON ON THE STREETS!
HEY!
WHICH MEANS YOU ARE RUINING EVERYTHING FOR EVERYONE ELSE!
DON'T!
YOU ARE DONE!
HEY, MAN, T-TAKE YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!
HOW IS THIS FOR AN "OR ELSE"?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE STUFF YOU'RE SELLING DOES TO A PERSON FREEBASING?
HERE! FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF!
OADDMMF!

MY STREETS.
WHAT I'VE DONE TO GET HERE.
HOW FAR I'VE COME.
SECURITY

HOLY--YOU KNOW WHO THAT IS?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHO THAT IS.
HE'S AN AVENGER.
WAS. I THINK.
THAT GUY-- HE SAVED MY DADDY ONCE.
HE SAVED EVERYONE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD MORE THAN ONCE.
THAT'S--
LUKE CAGE
WOW! ALL THOSE SANDWICHES FOR YOU, MR. CAGE?
BOY'S GOTTA EAT.
I'M TELLIN' THAT JESSICA LADY YOU HANG WITH HOW MUCH FOOD YOU'RE SNEAKIN'.
OR WORSE, I'LL TELL IRON FIST.
HEY! HOW COME I AIN'T SEEN THAT JESSICA LADY AROUND HERE LATE--?
HOLD UP. YOU HEAR THAT?
YEAH. SOUNDS LIKE A STREAMER.

YOU GOT A PHONE?
YEAH?
CALL 9-1-1.

POOM
TEEDLE TEEDLE TEE
THIS IS CAGE.
WHAT?
IS--IS SHE--?

Diamondback's back--and Luke Cage, Daredevil and Iron Fist unknowingly declared war on him by busting up one of his establishments. Diamondback took revenge, shooting Luke's wife Jessica Jones and launching vicious attacks on Luke and his allies.

But he just picked a fight with the wrong vigilantes...

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MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL.
WHERE IS SHE?
AW, JESS...
OH BABY...
CAN-- CAN YOU HEAR ME?
I HAD THEM CHANGE THE NAME ON THE ROOM...

...IN CASE ANYONE IS LOOKING TO FINISH THE JOB.
DAREDEVIL!
(KEEP IT... DOWN.)

DAREDEVIL

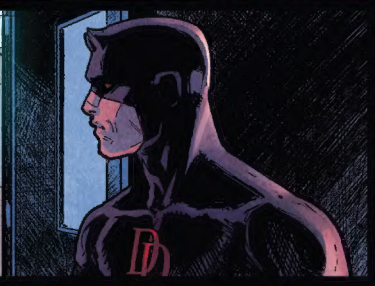
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
POLICE SCANNERS.
I CAME RIGHT OVER AS SOON AS I HEARD.
I WAS ATTACKED TODAY, TOO.

YOU WERE JACKED TOO?
IN BROAD DAYLIGHT. MY ALTER EGO.
OH MAN. OUT OF COSTUME?
JESSICA'S VITALS ARE STRONG.

SOMEONE KNOWS-- SOMEONE KNOWS YOUR SECRET! I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOUR SECRET.
SOMEONE TARGETED THE FOUR OF US AT THE SAME TIME.
FOUR?

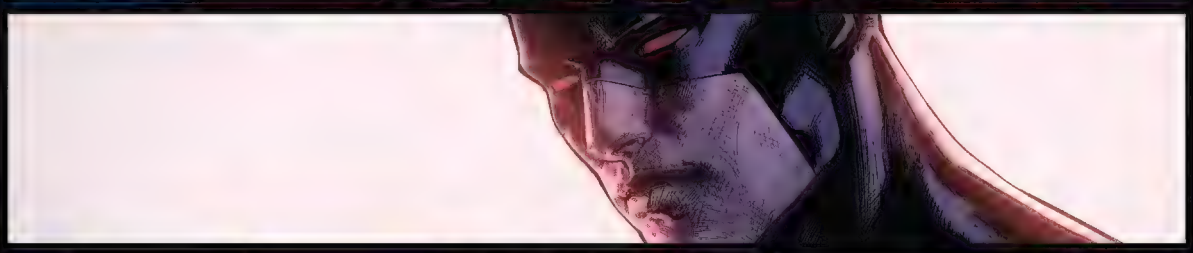
DANNY?

I THINK HE'S INCLUDING ME.



IRON FIST

I'M OKAY.
I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST ME...AND THEN THE DETECTIVES ON THE SCENE SAID THEY HEARD ON THE HORN JESSICA GOT HIT.
YOU HEARING ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE?
DAMN.
WE NEED TO MAKE A LIST OF POSSIBLE--
HOLD ON...



NOTHING OUT OF THE ORDINARY.
(OUR ORDINARY.)
IT WAS JUST THE FOUR OF US.
WE'LL START LOOKING UNDER EVERY ROCK.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CALL S.H.I.E.L.D.
S.H.I.E.L.D.?

THEY SHOT MY WIFE.
THEY BLEW UP OUR OFFICE.
THIS IS ON US.

MY MIND HAS BEEN REELING AS TO WHO COULD BE BEHIND THIS. IT COULD BE ANY OF THE--
KINGPIN.
A.I.M.
HYDRA.
THE HAND.
THOSE GUYS WHO WEAR THOSE STUPID ANIMAL HEADS ON THEIR--
IT WAS DIAMONDBACK.

JESS!
I'M OKAY.
DON'T TOUCH.
ALIAS
INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES
JESSICA JONES
WHO SHOT YOU?
DIAMONDBACK.
NAH, THAT AIN'T RIGHT.
DIAMONDBACK IS DEAD.
LONG DEAD.
YEAH, NO ONE WE KNOW EVER PULLED THAT TRICK OUT OF THEIR ASS.
NO, I'M TELLIN' YA.
WELL, HE CERTAINLY SOUNDED LIKE HE KNEW YOU.
AH, MAN, I BET THOSE E.M.T. @#$%^&@# TOOK THE DIAMONDS.
WHAT DIAMONDS?
THIS GUY DIAMONDBACK DROPPED A COUPLE OF DIAMONDS ON MY OPEN, GAPING FLESH WOUND.
LIKE A @#$%.
A CALLING CARD?
SLAP
A CALLING CARD THAT SAYS: "HEY, I'M A @#$%."
DOESN'T MAKE IT DIAMONDBACK.
JESSICA, WAIT FOR THE DAMN DOCTOR BEFORE YOU--
I'VE BEEN SHOT BEFORE. I'M FINE.
YOU HAVE?
I'VE BEEN SHOT AT.
HORNHEAD, IS SHE FINE?
SHE'S MOSTLY FINE.
I'M NOT STAYING HERE.
WHO KNEW YOU COULD TAKE A BULLET?
TAKING A BULLET MEANS IT BOUNCES OFF... NOT STOPPING IT WITH YOUR SPLEEN.
THIS IS IMPORTANT: DIAMONDBACK? WILLIS STRYKER DIAMONDBACK?
I'M SORRY, BABY.
DIAMONDBACK.
WHAT IS GOING ON IN HERE?
YOU'VE SET OFF EVERY ALARM WE HAVE!
I MEAN, IS, UH, EVERYONE OKAY?

BLACK CAT, YOU THERE?
I'M HERE, HAMMERHEAD. ANYTHING ON THE STREET?
NOTHING.
I DON'T LOVE THIS.
YOU SHOULDN'T.
I'M GOING IN.
I'LL MAKE THE CALL...
MILK?

WASN'T SURE HOW FAR YOU TAKE THIS WHOLE CAT THING.
DIAMONDBACK.
THIS IS UNUSUAL.
IF YOU WANT, WE COULD MEET IN THE BACK OF SOME SMOKY CLUB OR ON A FILTHY ROOFTOP SOMEWHERE.
I WAS REFERRING TO YOU BEING BACK FROM THE DEAD.
ANOTHER STORY FOR ANOTHER TIME, MY DARLIN'.
ALL RIGHT, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU NEED A GOOD HIDING PLACE RECOMMENDATION?
HIDING PLACE?
HONEY, WORD IS YOU TOOK A WIDE SWING AT LUKE CAGE, HIS WIFE AND HIS BEST PAL...
YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN ASSISTED LIVING BY BREAKFAST.

"YOU DO KNOW YOU'RE BEING ACTIVELY HUNTED AS WE SPEAK."

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD TELL ME...

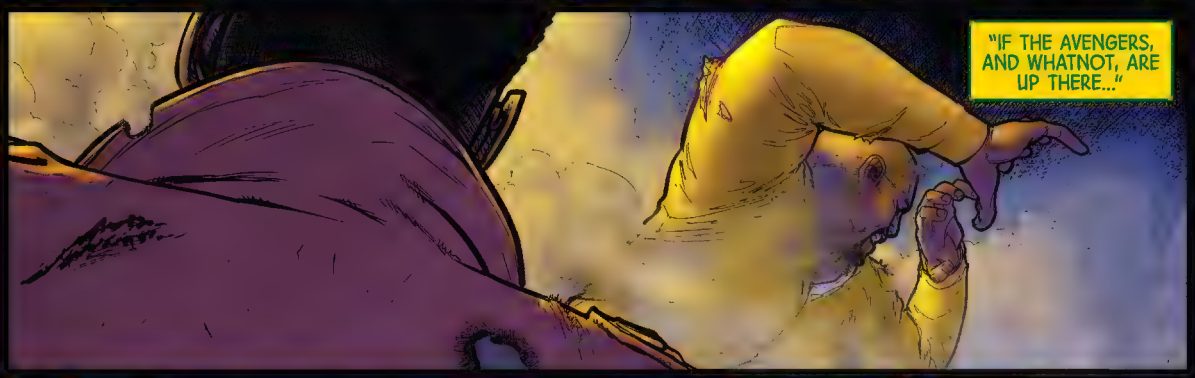
JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR, I'M NOT ASKING YOU FOR PERMISSION OR FEELING YOU OUT...
...I AM TELLING YOU HOW THINGS ARE GOING TO BE FROM NOW ON.
FROM MY BASE IN HARLEM, I AM GOING TO BE QUICKLY BRANCHING OUT ALL ACROSS THE EASTERN SEABOARD.
BUT I LIKE YOU, MS. CAT. I LIKE HOW YOU OPERATE.
IF YOU FALL IN LINE BEHIND ME, YOU'LL BE PRIMED TO MAKE MAD MONEY...
REAL MONEY...
LIKE, EVENTUALLY "CASH OUT AND GO SIT ON AN ISLAND" MONEY...
THE INFRASTRUCTURE IS FALLING INTO PLACE, AND SOME INTERESTING NEW REVENUE STREAMS ARE OPENING UP BECAUSE OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE X-MEN...
...SO...
...YOU IN OR OUT?
FELICIA, LISTEN...
IN OR OUT OF WHAT?
ARE WE GOING TO BE A HELP TO EACH OTHER OR NOT?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE WHAT I SAY?
YOU JUST SAID YOU WEREN'T ASKING PERMISSION.
NOW IT SOUNDS A LITTLE LIKE YOU ARE.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS?

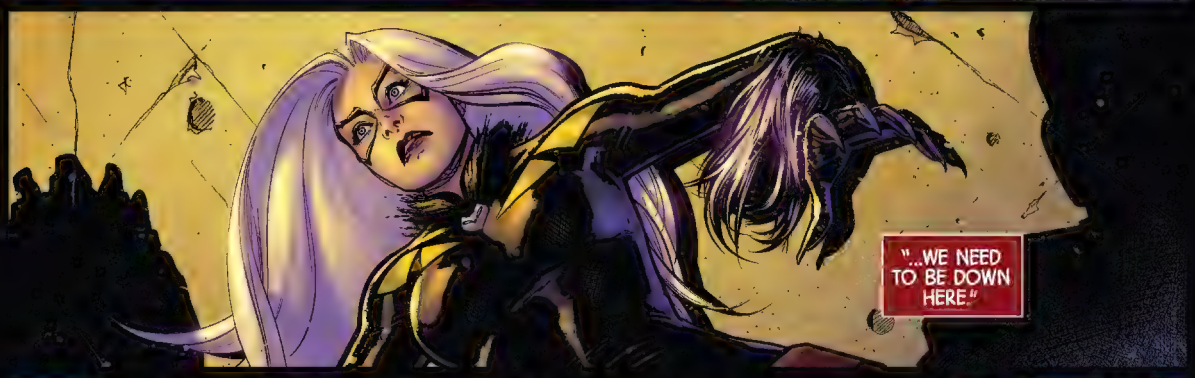
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS, DIAMONDBACK.
HE'S IN THE BUILDING.
SINCE YOU TORCHED HEROES FOR HIRE, BUSINESS HAS BEEN UP.
GO FIGURE.
SO YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT?
I DID.
EVERYONE DID.
IF YOU HADN'T SUMMONED ME HERE, I WAS GOING TO SEND YOU AN EDIBLE BOUQUET AND A "THANK YOU" NOTE.
BUT INSTEAD YOU COME AT ME WITH THIS?
AND EXPECT ME TO WHAT?
GET OUT OF THERE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT ME AND I KNOW YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE. SO I'M ASKING: DID YOU REALLY THINK I WAS GOING TO HIKE UP MY SKIRT FOR THAT PITCH?
AND AS LONG AS WE'RE TALKING SHOP HERE...
...I WASN'T BEING CUTE BEFORE.
YOU BLEW UP LUKE CAGE'S HOUSE, YOU SHOT HIS WIFE...
...WHICH MEANS YOU SHOT YOURSELF IN THE FOOT BEFORE YOU EVEN GOT STARTED.
OR I FLIPPED THE SCRIPT.
YEAH?
'CAUSE HE'S HERE.

KRAKOOM
LUKE CAGE, DIAMONDBACK...
AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, YOU COME AT MY WIFE?!
TO BE FAIR, BROTHER, YOU GOT IN MY BUSINESS FIRST...
YOU'VE BEEN ALIVE ALL THESE YEARS!

ANY LUCK?
NOT ENOUGH.
HOW'S HE DOING?
I THINK THIS IS MORE FOR HIM AT THIS POINT.
ANYONE HEARD FROM LUKE?
NO, BUT, HEY, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
WHACK
...WE GOT CAUGHT WITH OUR PANTS DOWN.
YEAH.
WHICH MEANS WHETHER WE WANT TO ADMIT IT OR NOT, WE--
--ARE NOT IN CONTROL OF WHAT IS HAPPENING.
EXACTLY.
CONTROL IS AN ILLUSION.
ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOUR BULLETPROOF ASS...
AGH!
...AND ALL THE HOLES IN IT.

I THINK WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER.
I THINK PEOPLE ON THE STREET NEED TO KNOW WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER.
SMACK
YEAH, SURE... WE'VE TALKED ABOUT THIS BEFORE...


"IF THE AVENGERS, AND WHATNOT, ARE UP THERE..."


"...WE NEED TO BE DOWN HERE."

AND IF THINGS ARE SO OFF THAT WE ARE GETTING ATTACKED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT, THAT OUR SECRETS ARE COMPROMISED...
...WE NEED TO UP OUR GAME.
NOW.

HEY...
...I'M SURE LUKE ALREADY HAS IT IN THE BAG.

SEE?
THIS IS WHY I'LL WIN!
I'LL DO THIS TO EVERY ONE OF THESE IDIOTS WHO WOULD ACTUALLY DEFEND THIS CITY...
SHABOOM
SHABOOM
IT'S SO FUNNY, FOR A SECOND...
SHABOOM
...I WAS WORRIED HE WAS GONNA BRING ALL HIS FRIENDS WITH HIM.
DUMB MOVE, COMING AT ME ALL BY HIMSELF.
TO BE CONTINUED...

LUKE CAGE

THE PULSE interview

By Benjamin Urich

Designed By Manny Mederos

Art by: Michael Gaydos & Matt Hollingsworth

Luke Cage.

Of the seemingly endless list of people who have taken on the role of protector of this city, this country, this planet and beyond...Luke Cage, for all of his in-your-face bravado, is actually one of the least controversial and most beloved members of the super-powered community.

According to a recent *Daily Bugle*/Gallup poll, Luke Cage is actually the People's Choice to run for mayor of the City of New York–a role Cage is quick to reject. "Not my world" is all he had to say on the subject.

Maybe it's because Luke Cage's story is, oddly, an American story of survival. Carl Lucas grew up on the mean streets of Harlem, only to find himself in prison for a crime it has since been proven he did not commit. In prison, as part of an illegal experiment, Carl Lucas, against his will, underwent a procedure that gave him what the government labels "omega-event-level super-strength" and his signature unbreakable skin. He left prison a changed man in every conceivable way, and has since dedicated each day of his life to doing everything he can for anyone who needs him. Some people even pay for the privilege. Luke Cage has been an Avenger, a Defender and, of course, a founding member of Heroes for Hire. A man has to eat.

After a handful of recent salacious tabloid headlines, some perpetrated by this very organization, I sat down with Cage to talk about his career and what's next for those of us who live down in the mean streets of the five boroughs.

BEN URICH
Luke Cage. According to my research, this is the first sit-down interview you have given in many years...

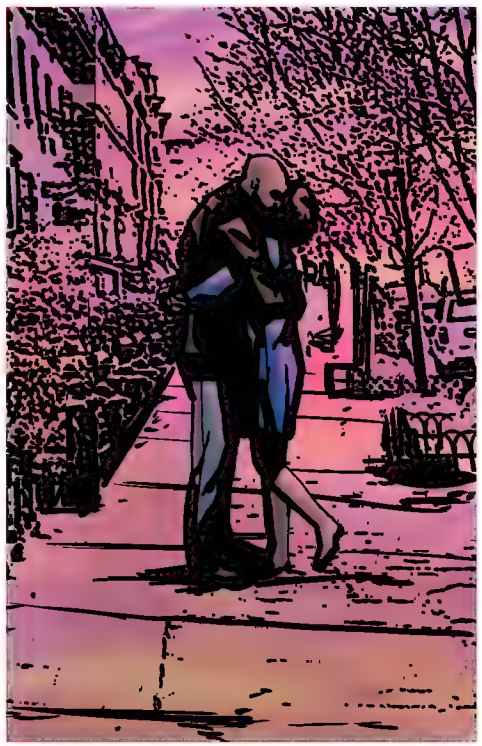
LUKE CAGE
Yes. I'm not--a lot of people run to the press to ensure they're being heard. I get that. I guess it was the way I was raised--words can be cheap. All that matters is action. You see a lot of politicians saying one thing and doing another, and still, in this day and age where these lies are so obvious, people still fall for them. I can't stand it. I thought the best way was to not participate in the nonsense, allow my actions to speak for themselves. It works most of the time.

BEN URICH
What convinced you to sit down with me today?

LUKE CAGE
Well, a couple of things. Number one is... There have been some headlines about me and my wife, and they were painting a picture that was the direct opposite of the truth. A good friend of mine pointed out that no matter what I think my silence means, it is interpreted by most as non-denial... If I'm not denying it, it must be true. No one knows that I'm choosing to ignore it because it's stupid. So I thought I would come here and tell people that it's stupid.

BEN URICH
So I take it you're here to say you're not having an affair...

LUKE CAGE
Perfect example. I'm out on the street, speaking to a longtime colleague of mine, like a war buddy... we hug goodbye, someone takes a picture of the hug from a distance...and it looks like I'm macking on some lady in broad daylight. What bothers me about this is, of course, it's not true. I have a wife and child. It just so happens that I take my role in their lives very seriously. I take my role as an African-American man in the public eye very seriously. Someone else used me to make money...with a lie. I guess I can put up with people using us to make money if it's the truth, but this is the opposite. I don't like being painted as something that I find abhorrent. And the flip side is, I know by denying it, I might sound guilty too. I know this. But I have to tell the truth.


Art by: Michael Gaydos & Matt Hollingsworth

BEN URICH
You and Jessica Jones are still together...

LUKE CAGE
Yes.

BEN URICH
You have a lovely daughter.

LUKE CAGE
Yes. Thank you.

BEN URICH
How is fatherhood?

LUKE CAGE
Fatherhood. True story, I once got into a good old-fashioned street fight with Dr. Doom...

BEN URICH
And fatherhood is scarier?

LUKE CAGE
You beat me to the punchline! (laughs)

BEN URICH
How is raising a family, doing what you do?

LUKE CAGE
Ask me in ten years. Is it any different than a cop or a fireman, a federal agent or S.H.I.E.L.D. agent with a family? It's a scary job. But I come home every day, so far, and if I've done it right, I've left the world better than I found it. So does my wife. So does my best friend. My feeling is, if we do that every day, then the world my daughter is going to grow up in will be far better than the one my wife and I grew up in, which, in fact, sucked. I'm not alone in this, but I live by the idea that if everyone woke up one morning and decided to actively be the best version of themselves, or just do their job exceptionally well, the entire world would shift immediately into something–well, frankly, something we all deserve. Right?

BEN URICH
Fair enough. It's just a very unique thing for your community.

LUKE CAGE
What's that now?

BEN URICH
Other than the Fantastic Four, you don't see many public displays of family in the super hero--

LUKE CAGE
Well, that's not true. The Avengers are a family. The Defenders are a family. The X-Men? Most of the super hero community tends to gravitate toward each other, because we came from broken homes or disappointing homes or just bad homes. While we're pulling ourselves up out of the sludge, we meet other people like us and we end up really bonding with each other and helping each other, lifting each other up–then all of a sudden, you turn around and you have a family. I built my family. Danny Rand is my family. He is my brother. Daredevil is family. Literally, I'd do anything for these people. Anything. It's one of the great surprises of doing this–that you get to meet the other people who inspire you and you get to see how amazing they are in real life. These people understand me on levels that other people might not, because we share a common experience. It's cool to have super-powers, it is. I'm not ever going to be one of those people that complains about my power and the responsibility it brings. But, like everything, it comes with its own problems, and you still want to complain about work to your peers. Especially if that work includes getting punched in the side of the head by a cosmically enhanced Doctor Doom. You're going to want to have a friendly, trustworthy ear. It's nice to have that. I know I sound like one of those billionaires whining about

Art by: Mike Mayhew

Art by: Olivier Coipel, Mark Morales, & José Villarrubia

BE A TRUE POWER MAN

Art by: Jason Latour

tax reform, but when you have super-powers, there are still concerns.

BEN URICH
The safety of those around you--

LUKE CAGE
Number one concern.

BEN URICH
There's been a lot of talk recently about vigilantism and the role of the costumed hero--

LUKE CAGE
There always is.

BEN URICH
So if you have something to lose--if you have family--why do it?

LUKE CAGE
We need cops and we need firemen and we need agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. And you know what? We need more of all of them. But we CLEARLY need more than that. There are really dangerous people out there eager to take advantage of everything and anyone because, dammit, they have it coming. I have seen this since I was a baby. I know this. There are people who will do and say anything to get "what's theirs" and they don't follow any kind of code. They run by rules the police cannot work with.

BEN URICH
Sometimes very brazenly.

LUKE CAGE
Right?

BEN URICH
Recently, a character that calls himself Diamondback has been making some bold moves. A blast from your past.

LUKE CAGE
You mind if we don't talk about that?

BEN URICH
Okay.

LUKE CAGE
It's just, I'm inclined not to give that guy press. You know?

BEN URICH
I do. I was more interested in the history between you two.

LUKE CAGE
It's just that.

BEN URICH
What?

LUKE CAGE
It's history.

BEN URICH
Okay, today then. Are you surprised to find yourself "married with children"?

LUKE CAGE
Surprised doesn't quite cover it.

BEN URICH
I'm sure.

LUKE CAGE
I don't talk about it much because it is what it is and I have come to terms with it, but there was a time in my life where I thought I was going to die. First, on the streets. Then I thought I was going to die in jail. And for a long time, even after I got my powers, I thought I was going to just die from having something this unnatural done to my body. So for a good long period of my life I thought I was going of die. It's probably why I appreciate how lucky I am–

Art by: Dave Cockrum, Rich Buckler, & Paul Mounts

[Luke Cage pauses for over three minutes. In this time he does nothing but actively control his breathing and look out the window. Eventually, composed, he returns to the conversation as if no time has gone by at all.]

LUKE CAGE
What was the question?

BEN URICH
How has fatherhood been treating you?

[Luke Cage laughs. He realizes the question got the best of him. An omega-level super hero done in by the oldest of concerns.]

Obviously, this story is... to be continued.

We want to hear from YOU! Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your emails "OKAY TO PRINT"! You can also tweet us using the hashtags #DefendersComic and #Oktoprint for a chance to see your tweet printed in future issues! And now, a few words from our all-star creative team: Brian Michael Bendis, David Marquez and Justin Ponsor!

This is a book we are very excited about. My history with these characters is, let's say, pronounced. First of all, some of you know that I'm one of the creators of Jessica Jones. Doesn't get more intimate than that.

For those who have not been reading the new JESSICA JONES series, things are very different for her and Luke. Their relationship will be the cornerstone of DEFENDERS just as it was sometimes back in NEW AVENGERS.

In fact, let's talk about NEW AVENGERS--where I staked my reputation and put Luke Cage right front and center. If there was a major Marvel event–CIVIL WAR I, SECRET INVASION, etc.–I tried to make sure Mr. Cage, for the first time in his long history, had something to say about it. Plus, I was writing ALIAS, DAREDEVIL and two AVENGERS books simultaneously, and it created a situation where I could develop the relationship between Jessica Jones and Luke Cage into something very real. And I love Daredevil so much. I have missed writing him. Returning to the character in this decidedly different scenario has been very creatively fulfilling.

When I was writing all these characters previously, I initially steered clear of Iron Fist because he was being written by two really good friends of mine--Matt Fraction and Ed Brubaker--in the seminal run with David Aja. But once he became available, we grabbed him…we even found a cool way to connect the Iron Fist saga to the Phoenix saga and introduced the white costume, which is the best costume! When I was done with AVENGERS, I was already preparing this book. I was. I pitched it publicly in on my last page, and then something happened…they all became big-ass TV stars! And all those who spent the aughts MOCKING me for a Luke Cage "crush"…were silenced! As I was proven right! Again! :-)

And now, finally, the stars align for us to make this very special new book. Our goal is to create a brand-new, very dangerous, very exciting tapestry for our street-level comics–all of which will be centered around these four amazing characters, but almost every single character you can think of that would fit in the mean streets of Marvel will feature in this book.

They will be threatened by new players, new threats, old scores and new rules. Issue three? The Punisher.

People always ask me what they can do to support their favorite comics…go to your local store and preorder. That means the store will set one aside for you and that means we will set one aside for the store. Thanks for reading!

-Brian Michael Bendis

I couldn't be more excited to be working on THE DEFENDERS, especially since it means I get to team up once again with Brian and Justin.

During my career at Marvel, I've gotten to play with so many amazing characters--Miles Morales, Tony Stark, Captain Marvel (and so many more in the recent CIVIL WAR II event)–but I've felt that I'd neglected one corner of the Marvel Universe: the shadowy streets of New York City that are home to some of my favorite heroes. Especially after the huge scope of CWII, I leapt at the opportunity to tell a more intimate (though no less exciting and action-packed) story with the likes of Daredevil, Jessica Jones, Luke Cage and Iron Fist kicking butt and taking names among the water towers and fire escapes of Hell's Kitchen.

It's also a chance to lean into a different visual storytelling style. After the bright and shiny world of futurist Tony Stark and the Hollywood blockbuster of CWII, THE DEFENDERS is a chance to explore a stark neo-noir world of vivid neon lights and gritty shadows where the city itself becomes a character. These are streets defined by artists like Sienkiewicz, Miller, Maleev and Mazzucchelli, and it's hard to not want to play in that same sandbox. But as much as I may want to evoke that visual flavor we all associate with these heroes, I'm also bringing my own sensibilities to the table–and the result, especially since I'm once again teamed up with color artist extraordinaire Justin Ponsor, is something new and exciting and unlike what we've seen done with these characters before.

And, of course, these are heroes that Brian has helped define during his runs on books like DAREDEVIL and NEW AVENGERS. I couldn't be more proud to be partnering once again with him to open up a new chapter in these characters' lives. It's gonna be a thrilling ride and I'm glad y'all are coming along with us.

-David Marquez

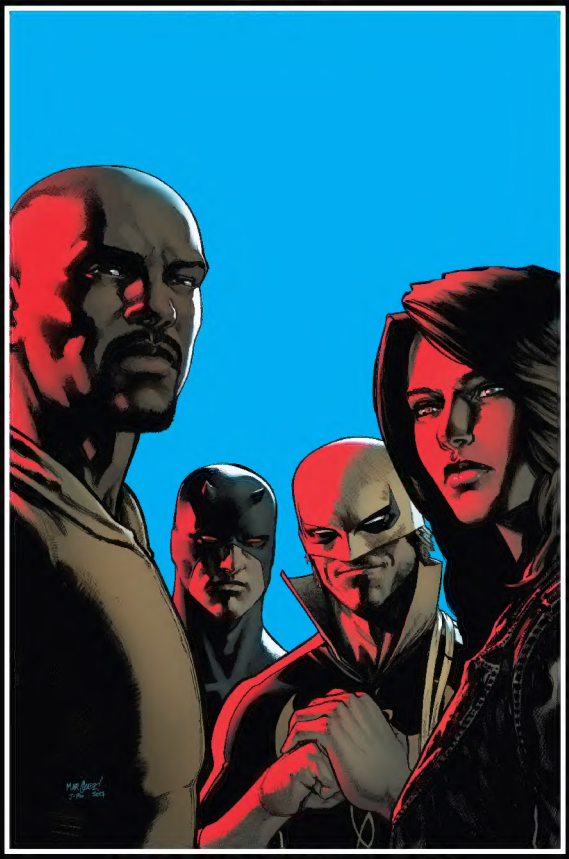
When Brian and David told me what they were cooking up for DEFENDERS and the new look they had in mind for it, I jumped at the chance...metaphorically. I mean, I could have made a splendid leap. I'm no Batroc, but I'm energized. This book has me buzzing creatively.

Shadowy, noir stories are something I've been hoping to do for a while. David constantly pushes his work, and on DEFENDERS, he's hit a new level. I love seeing pages arrive. Meanwhile, I've been enjoying Brian's street-level stories since ALIAS was originally in stores. Reading the scripts for these issues stokes my imagination and gets me amped to work. I'm happy to be included on the team with two guys I trust and admire.

If you're reading this, thank you. We've been working hard to get DEFENDERS just right. I appreciate that you decided to pick it up.

-Justin Ponsor

NEXT!



DEFENDERS #2

ALL ON SALE THIS MONTH!

JESSICA JONES #9

LUKE CAGE #2

IRON FIST #4

DAREDEVIL #21